



Update from Congressman NEIL ABERCROMBIE

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Photo courtesy U.S. Dept. of Energy

Ethanol Process Development Unit



Sugarcane fields



Abercrombie working for ethanol alternative energy

Dear friend:

Anyone who's bought gasoline recently knows that Hawaii has an energy problem. As a member of the U.S. House Resources Committee, I'm deeply involved in the search for alternative energy sources that will make our state less dependent on fossil fuels and other forms of imported energy.

One of the most promising energy sources is ethanol, a fuel or fuel additive that can be manufactured from sugar grown right here in Hawaii. State law will soon require that gasoline sold in Hawaii be blended with ethanol. It's an approach that will reduce pollution and move our islands toward the goal of energy independence.

But that process will only occur with encouragement and support, especially in its early stages. That's why I've worked hard to provide incentives for ethanol production here in Hawaii. The Energy Policy Act, which passed Congress and became law last year, presented an opportunity to include legislative language to accomplish that goal.

Working with other members of the Hawaii Congressional Delegation-- Senator Akaka in particular-- I secured an authorization for \$9 million in federal support for the manufacture of ethanol from Hawaii-grown sugar. That amount is one-fourth of \$36 million included in the Energy Policy Act for sugar-ethanol demonstration grants, to be divided equally among Hawaii and three other states. This funding will allow producers to test the feasibility of replicating

the corn-to-ethanol program already operating under current law.

The bill also includes a \$50,000,000 loan guarantee for sugar cane and sucrose-to-ethanol facilities. These funds will be used to ensure commercialization of sugar cane ethanol, particularly for small producers making less than 30 million gallons per year.

This is a groundbreaking program that moves us toward energy self sufficiency. It will preserve job opportunities, reduce air pollution and contribute to the survival of Hawaii sugar. It will allow us to explore ways to develop renewable fuels and make our state less dependent on imported oil. We worked hard to get bipartisan support for this experimental program. If it fulfills its promise, everyone in Hawaii will benefit through a stronger economy, a cleaner environment, and lower gas prices.

Aloha,



Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress

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